

and the United States of America well. God Bless for a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to state that due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed rollcall vote 353 to H.R. 6124 taken on May 22, 2008. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "yea" on this measure.

While this Farm Bill is not perfect, I would have voted to support the bill because of the benefit it will bring to Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers. In a time of rampant Government spending, I would like to have seen substantive reform in terms of fiscal responsibility. However, this bill does take necessary steps to help the agriculture industry that is vital to the State of Oklahoma. I look forward to voting on this measure to ensure that it becomes law.

HONORING PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Pleasant Valley High School Boys Cross Country team. This past fall Pleasant Valley captured the Iowa Class 4A Cross Country Championship!

The Pleasant Valley team finished the course with a team average time of 16 minutes, 10 seconds. And the individual winner of the meet was Pleasant Valley runner Devin Allbaugh who finished the course in 15 minutes, 39 seconds.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Pleasant Valley Boys Cross Country team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team, says it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This past weekend, Pleasant Valley proved just that.

SALUTING BRIAN KROHN

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding student from my district whose research has helped develop a new biodiesel production method that will help move our country in the direction of energy independence.

Brian Krohn, a Senior Chemistry Major at Augsburg College in Minneapolis recently conducted a summer research project aimed at

investigating new ways to produce biodiesel. His project developed a new, innovative chemical reaction that has never before been described in scientific literature. This new process—"Mcgyan Process," named for the three scientists officially credited with the discovery, can convert a much wider range of feedstock oils and animal fats into biodiesel. The Mcgyan Process can make more biodiesel fuel, faster and with a minimal environmental impact. The wider range of renewable oils that can be used through the Mcgyan Process also has the potential to foster additional environmentally sound discoveries that can help move our country in the right direction of renewable energy.

All of these discoveries were made possible by the research and ideas initiated by Brian Krohn and the learning environment fostered by Augsburg College. Brian's success should serve as a reminder of the potential that exists within every student. With the appropriate encouragement, support and a positive working environment truly amazing discoveries can occur.

Madam Speaker, we salute Brian Krohn and all our nation's remarkable students, teachers, and scientists who are persistently working to bring knowledge, ingenuity and hard work together to move our country toward energy independence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall vote 341.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" for rollcall vote 341.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. This legislation will extend and expand important tax incentives for renewable energy, will spur business investments, cut taxes for millions of Americans, and retain and create hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act includes \$18 billion in tax incentives to spur green jobs and energy independence. I am pleased that it includes a six-year extension of the investment tax credit for solar energy, and between one and three year extensions of the production tax credit for addition sources of renewable energy. It also provides tax credits of \$3,000 or more to purchase fuel-efficient, plug-in hybrid vehicles and includes important incentives for energy conservation in commercial buildings, residential structures, and energy efficient appliance. This bill also includes \$3 billion in tax credit bonds for State and local governments to make energy con-

servation investments in public infrastructure, investments which I hope can be targeted toward low-income communities and our schools.

Without these energy tax extensions, our nation could lose an additional 116,000 jobs this year. With additional long-term repercussions in the growth of an industry which has enormous potential at in an otherwise uncertain economic time.

This legislation also invests \$37 billion to spur job creation and cut taxes for millions of middle-class families. It will help the families of more than 13 million children by expanding the child tax credit to those earning \$8,500 a year, saves 3.4 million teachers money by providing a deduction for classroom expenses, extends tax relief under the Earned Income Tax Credit to 22,000 American servicemen and women in combat, and would help more than 4.5 million families better afford college.

At a time when families are struggling in a slowing economy and oil prices reached yet another record on the world market, this bill is a much needed step toward securing our energy and economic future. I hope my colleagues and the President will join us in enacting this important legislation which makes needed investments without increasing the national debt.

HONORING WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES AND FEMALE VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1054 to express my appreciation to the one million plus female veterans across our Nation and the thousands of women serving in our armed forces today. I want to thank these brave heroines who sacrifice much to not only protect our safety but also defend our freedoms.

Our brave men and women, who have chosen to join our all volunteer military, share not only a passion for their country but a respect for the ideals that it promotes. While women served honorably in World War I, they were not permitted to participate in the armed forces as equals until the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948. This legislation made it possible for women to serve in active duty and reserve military occupational specialties, other than nursing, and as equals to their male counterparts.

While women are still prohibited from serving in front line military units, their ability to wear the uniform and assist our efforts at home and abroad must be commended. It is important to remember that during our 10 year involvement in Vietnam, eight service women lost their lives. More recently, 110 women have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism. These brave women are not only soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. They are our daughters, our mothers, our sisters, and our aunts. They are an integral component of our community and we must remember that as they deploy or are lost in action, we too suffer along with their families.

As we honor those serving today and those who have served in the past, we must rededicate ourselves to providing the benefits and

care that they require and deserve. We must ensure that the proper medical services are available to service men and women for their use while on active duty and once they return home. Today, the percentage of women in the military is at the highest level ever. My home State of Ohio currently has over 65,000 female veterans. I am deeply concerned about the impact these high service levels are having on the well-being and stability of America families and I am committed to working on this issue in Congress.

The 11th Congressional District of Ohio is represented by an outstanding group of women serving in our Nation's armed forces and our State's national guard. Their service and sacrifice is greatly appreciated and will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO U-2 PILOTS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the heroic feats and commendable military service of 11 U-2 pilots of the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. Based out of Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, these men weathered great danger in flying critical surveillance missions over the Caribbean during the height of the Cold War.

On October 14, 1962, their efforts provided the first convincing evidence that Soviet medium range ballistic missiles were present in Cuba; and thanks to their courage, our country was able to recognize and navigate one of the greatest national security threats of the 20th century, the Cuban Missile Crisis. At great personal risk, the unit exposed some of the deepest and darkest secrets of our country's adversaries.

Named "Operation Brass Knob", this distinguished group of pilots ventured over Cuban airspace armed only with cameras. Declassified documents and the pilots' personal accounts reveal that each was engaged by the enemy; indeed, on the 27th U-2 flight over Cuba, and during the pinnacle of the crisis, Major Rudolf Anderson Jr. was shot down and killed by a strategic air missile. Nevertheless, the intelligence photographs these pilots compiled gave President Kennedy the information needed to initiate a naval blockade of Cuba and ultimately dissuade the Soviet Union.

On November 26, 1962, President Kennedy awarded the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing with the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Kennedy nobly remarked, "The work of this unit has contributed as much to the security of the United States as any unit in our history, and any group of men in our history!"

While President Kennedy's decisionmaking during the Cuban Missile crisis is properly designated as lore, the 11 U-2 pilots have spent the past 45 years in relatively humble obscurity. Because of the sensitivity of their mission, most of these men were denied the public praise and recognition warranted by their mission.

And so today I applaud the Val Verde Historical Commission for its decision to honor these men by placing a commemorative historical marker in Del Rio, TX, on behalf of the 11 pilots of Operation Brass Knob: Majors Ru-

dolf Anderson Jr., Buddy L. Brown, Edwin G. Emerling, Richard S. Heyser, James A. Qualls, and Captains George M. Bull, Roger H. Herman, Charles W. Kern, Gerald E. McIlmoyle, Robert L. Primrose, and Daniel W. Schmarr. A ceremony will take place May 23, 2008, and five of the six surviving pilots will be in attendance.

As we approach Memorial Day, let us pause, reflect, and give thanks for the efforts of our men in uniform, both those whose efforts will be infamous and those whose service will be unheralded by the public at large. I am proud to represent the district from which the men of Operation Brass Knob staged their valiant flights, and I wish to congratulate them on their upcoming recognition.

INTRODUCTION OF COHEN-ISSA LIBEL TOURISM LEGISLATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today, I, along with Congressman DARRELL ISSA, introduced a bill that would address the phenomenon of "libel tourism," which occurs when plaintiffs seek judgments from foreign courts against American authors and publishers for making allegedly defamatory statements, often to get around first amendment-based constraints on American defamation law. This phenomenon threatens to undermine our Nation's core free speech principles. U.S. law places a higher burden on certain defamation plaintiffs and with respect to certain types of allegedly defamatory speech in order to safeguard first amendment-protected speech. Other countries, including those that generally share our legal tradition, provide no such protection, and American authors and publishers should not be forced to restrict their speech to comport with more limited foreign standards.

Our legislation will codify the principle that, while U.S. courts will normally enforce the judgments of foreign courts, they should not do so when foreign judgments undermine our Constitution. Specifically, our bill prohibits U.S. courts from recognizing or enforcing foreign defamation judgments that do not comport with the first amendment. This is a straightforward solution that is designed to discourage foreign defamation plaintiffs from filing suit against American authors and publishers in foreign courts and instead encourage them to file suit in the United States.

I would like to thank the Association of American Publishers and the Media Law Resource Center for their valuable feedback during the drafting of this bill and for their support for this legislation. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of this bill.

HONORING STATE CHAMPION WRESTLER BYRON TATE OF CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results

achieved by Clinton High School wrestler Byron Tate. This winter Byron captured the Iowa Class 3A Individual Wrestling Championship in the 215 pound weight class.

Byron won a thrilling championship match. He defeated his final opponent in a 5-2 decision.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Byron and the Clinton High School Wrestling team, both on and off the court. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant, the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team said it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself" This year, Byron Tate and Clinton High School proved just that.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, oil prices have now reached \$135 a barrel and regular gasoline averages \$3.81 per gallon around the country. Meanwhile, the big five oil companies are reaping the rewards of record prices. The major oil companies recorded more than \$123 billion in profits in 2007. However, rather than reinvesting the bulk of those profits to advance a strategy that vigorously incorporates renewable energy alternatives, oil company profits have been spent largely to fund huge increases in stock buybacks designed to prop up stock prices. ExxonMobil—the largest of the major oil companies—recorded \$40 billion in profit in 2007 and spent \$31.8 billion repurchasing shares of its own stock. Meanwhile ExxonMobil only spent \$10 million investing in renewable energy in 2007.

The oil industry in the past 5 years has undertaken one of the largest stock buybacks in the history of capitalism. Spending on share buybacks for the five major oil companies went from under \$10 billion a year in 2003 to nearly \$60 billion a year in 2007. Big Oil has increased spending on stock repurchases from \$7.9 billion in 2003 to \$57.7 billion in 2007—an increase of 630 percent. The increase in Big Oil's spending on stock buybacks in recent years has been so remarkable, and indeed unprecedented, that Exxon spent more repurchasing its own shares in the first quarter of 2008—\$8 billion—than all the major oil companies spent on stock buybacks for all of 2003.

The money being invested by Big Oil in all types of production still pales in comparison to the value being returned to shareholders in the form of dividends and stock buybacks. While ExxonMobil has increased capital investment in drilling and exploration from \$12 billion in 2003 to \$15.7 billion in 2007—an increase of roughly 30 percent—ExxonMobil has increased spending on stock buybacks from \$5.9 billion in 2003 to \$31.8 billion in 2007—a five-fold increase.

The legislation that I am introducing today, the Renewable Investment and Consumer Protection Act of 2008, would impose a 10 percent fee on all stock buyback transactions entered into by major oil companies and redirect that revenue to fund investment in renewable energy and low-income energy assistance programs. If the oil companies refuse to